



Interim Headteacher Update

Welcome back after the half-term break. It has been lovely to see the children return to school happy, settled and ready to learn. This half term will be busy, productive and full of exciting opportunities across the curriculum.

Celebrating our Successes from Last Term...



Reception - Last term the children really enjoyed being introduced to drawing club. Their vocabulary and imagination has developed and the children enjoy making up scenarios and adventures for the characters. We had a big change to our learning environment and the children are engaging in exploring the classroom through self discovery and adult led opportunities. This is helping to develop their independence and sense of responsibility to look after our classroom and resources. We have completed Phase 2 and 3 of Phonic sounds and we will be continuing to revisit all the sounds we have learned and will begin to read them within longer words.



Year 1 - What a roaringly fun half term we had last term! Our dinosaur workshop was a HUGE hit — especially when a baby dinosaur came to visit! The children loved learning about Mary Anning and David Attenborough, then used their big imaginations to build their own dinosaur small worlds. We also made cheerful paper dolls and dreamed up all the adventures they might go on next. Year One has been full of smiles, creativity, and lots of dino-sized excitement!



Year 2 - Last term our Year 2 children continued to thrive. We all enjoyed our focus texts in English, 'Traction Man' and 'The Tin Forest', and some wonderful writing was produced using these stories as inspiration. In Maths, we started to secure understanding of multiplication and division, and we learned about the Amazon Rainforest in Geography. We were architects in Art, designing and then making our own Tudor-style houses.





Year 3 - Last term we celebrated lots of achievements in Year 3. Pupils adapted well to Key Stage 2 expectations and showed increasing confidence and independence in their learning.

As part of their DT work on Healthy Eating, the children took part in a Cooking day where they compared and tasted shop bought and healthy yoghurt and followed a recipe to make healthier chips. They told us it was the best day ever and couldn't wait to make these when they got home!



Year 4 - Last term we celebrated lots of achievements in Year 4. The children showed strong teamwork, perseverance and improving fluency in both reading and mathematics. We have continued to read our whole class adventure story; How to train your Dragon and have loved our Friday 'Reading theatre' part of the curriculum which has allowed us to use our



expression to act out parts of the chapter. In art we investigated the 'Art of display' and used clay to produce our own figure, who we then placed in our own mini art galleries. We also began our journey on the 'Digestive system' and worked together to map out the parts of the digestive system on our bodies.



Year 5 - Last term we celebrated lots of achievements in Year 5. Pupils demonstrated maturity, responsibility and thoughtful contributions across lessons.



Year 5 worked incredibly hard on their Ancient Greece topic. They created impressive Spartan shields, Greek theatre masks,

wrote diary entries from Pandora's perspective and produced vivid descriptions of mythical beasts. Their fantastic effort truly shone through in their brilliant assembly.



Year 6 - Last term we celebrated lots of achievements in Year 6. The children showed excellent determination and leadership as they prepare for the transition to secondary school. In our science topic, Animals including Humans, we enjoyed looking at the anatomy of the heart and had the opportunity to dissect one. We



explored Brave Colour in Art and created our own art installations.



Online Safety

Children are spending increasing time online. We encourage families to talk regularly about safe and respectful online behaviour.

Helpful guides for parents:

NSPCC Online Safety: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Thinkuknow (CEOP): <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

If your child is worried about something online, please encourage them to speak to a trusted adult.

In each newsletter, we will include some information about online safety. If you want anything further or any more detail, please get in touch safeguarding@lfatg.org.uk

What is Roblox?

A gaming platform where most of the content is generated by other users. Roblox calls the playing and creation of games 'experiences'.



What are the risks?

- The sheer size of Roblox makes it near-**impossible to moderate**; 380million monthly users and 151million active daily users.
- The creator of the games (who can be anyone) **rate and age-code their own content**; this is not done by an objective, external moderator like in film production.
- Little brains are developing at an incredible pace and the 'experiences' on Roblox are **addictive**. Repeated and extended play is encouraged with short reward-linked tasks that do not reflect the sustained attention and effort needed when learning something new in school. We know interacting with online or tech-based content **interrupts sleep, hormones like dopamine and attention**.
- **Inappropriate content** appears with concerning ease and frequency - there is plenty of research on this but, in summary, the child-friendly appearance of Roblox hides the concerning volume of adult content which is not filtered out by controls or the AI moderators.
- The inbuilt option to communicate with other users is an option for **groomers to seek out children**, sometimes seeking alternative way to communicate such as asking for Snapchat or other messaging details. Children can and do chat with strangers on this platform.
- Roblox is free to use and play but there is optional **in-game spending** which poses a risk to children who feel tempted by the available options.



What steps can I take to keep my child safe?

- Firstly, it is important to remember that **limiting screen time** full stop is crucial. Our Reception children should only use technology with direct supervision and for up to a max of an hour per day. They should not have any of their own accounts and parents are advised to check all content in advance.
- Secondly, the most important thing you can do is **create a safe, open channel of communication with your child**. No amount of parental controls or restrictions will protect them from all harm, at all points. When (not if) they see something that worries them, they need to know it is okay to tell you about it so you can make sense of it together and support them.
- Have **rules around device usage and technology** that applies to all, not just Roblox. Ensure your child plays in family spaces where there is always better oversight and you can listen in or observe what they are doing.
- That said, we recommend you do **turn on Account Restrictions** in the app and that you **lock or disable chat** settings. You need to know **log-on information and passwords and check regularly**. Better still, **link a child account to an adult one** to give you greater control and insight as you can review recent activity. Even better still, **play together** when you can.

Attendance & Punctuality

Good attendance is essential for progress and wellbeing. Please ensure your child attends school every day unless they are unwell.

School Times

- School gates open at 8.50am and close at 9.00am. Children arriving after 9.00am are deemed to be late and will receive a late mark.
- Lateness is monitored regularly and late comers noted. School will issue an advisory letter to parents.
- Registers close and learning begins promptly at 9.05am - arrival after this time would count as a session's unauthorised absence and may result in a penalty notice should these be excessive.





End of School Collection

It is important for all pupils to remain in school until the end of the official school day.

To support your child's learning, wellbeing, and continuity of education, pupils should not be collected early unless there are exceptional circumstances or by prior agreement. Frequent early collections can disrupt learning not only for your child, but also for their classmates.

If your child must leave early for a medical appointment, written evidence of the appointment (such as an appointment card, letter or text confirmation, or email from the medical provider) must be provided to the school office in advance or upon collection. Without appropriate evidence, the absence may be recorded as unauthorised.

Where possible, we kindly ask for your cooperation in ensuring appointments are arranged outside of school hours.

School Finish Times

Reception, Yr1 & 2	3.20pm
Yr3, 4, 5 & 6	3.30pm

Daily Absence

The school applies the following procedures in deciding how to deal with individual absences:

- We operate a first day contact system by:
 - Telephone - 01827 300490
 - Studybugs app - <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>
 - Email - post@lfatg.org.uk

Parents should inform school of any absence, providing a reason for the absence.

- If no contact has been made to the school, we will follow up by a verbal phone call.
- In line with Landau Forte Academy Greenacres attendance policy, there is an expectation to keep in contact with the school daily for illness over two school days in length. Therefore, if we do not hear from parents or carers, we will make regular contact calls for updates.

Reading at Home

Reading remains a key priority across the school. Just 10–15 minutes of reading each day makes a significant difference to confidence and attainment.

Please continue to:

- Hear your child read regularly
- Sign reading records
- Talk about books together





Dates for your diary...

4th March	9.00am-10.30am Open Morning for all parents
5th March	World Book Day (Dress-up / non-uniform)
10th March	2.30pm Year 2 Mother's Day Craft Afternoon
11th March	2.30pm Reception Mother's Day Craft Afternoon
13th March	9.10am Year 1 Assembly to Parents
16th March	6.00pm-8.00pm Parents Evening (Book Fair)
17th March	4.00pm-6.00pm Parents Evening (Book Fair)
18th March	Oliver cast Gielgud Theatre trip
20th March	Comic Relief (non-uniform)
25th March	9.15am Reception Easter Bonnet Parade for Parents
25th March	3.20pm-4.20pm Reception Disco (£2 entrance)
26th March	Bunny drive for pupils (20p donation)
26th March	3.30pm-4.30pm Yr1, Yr2 & Yr3 Disco (£2 entrance) 4.45pm-6.00pm Yr4, Yr5 & Yr6 Disco (£2 entrance)
27th March	Last day of Spring Term <u>All pupils finish at 2.30pm</u> <i>(please note there will be no After School Club on 27th March)</i>
30th March—10th April	Easter Holiday
30th March—2nd April	Hive Easter Holiday Club (£20/day)
13th April	Inset Day
14th April	Pupils return to school

Thank you for your continued support. Our partnership with families plays a vital role in the success, safety and happiness of every child.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office.

We look forward to a successful and enjoyable half-term.

Best wishes

Gareth Thomas
Interim Headteacher

